

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for accessing a data processing system behind a network address translation (NAT) enabled network, comprising:

responsive to detecting a user request from a client system to establish a connection with a domain name, wherein said domain name identifies a NAT data processing system located behind said NAT enabled network, sending said request for said domain name to a local domain name service (DNS) server;

responsive to said local DNS server returning a fail response indicating no authoritative address for said domain name, identifying an IP address for a NAT device associated with said requested domain name from a configuration file for a host client domain for said client system;

sending a DNS query of said domain name to said NAT device at said IP address for said NAT device;

querying, from a client system located outside a NAT enabled network, a NAT device for an address of a NAT data processing system located behind said NAT enabled network;

automatically routing said query through said NAT device to a second DNS server that stores a plurality of private addresses for a plurality of systems located behind said NAT enabled network and said source routing address for said NAT device;

responsive to receiving said query for said address of said NAT data processing system at said DNS server, returning from said DNS server to said client system said plurality of private addresses for said NAT data processing system and a plurality of parallel data processing systems providing a same service as said NAT data processing system located behind said NAT enabled network wherein said DNS server returns an-

~~address for said NAT data processing system and said source routing address~~ for said NAT device; ~~[[and]]~~

sending packets, from said client system to said NAT data processing system at a particular ~~[[said]]~~ address associated with said NAT data processing system from among said plurality of private addresses with loose source routing enabled through said NAT device at said source routing address, such that said NAT data processing system behind said NAT enabled network is directly accessed by said client system from outside said NAT enabled network; and

responsive to said client system receiving a fail signal from an attempt to send packets to said NAT data processing system, sending packets from said client system to a next data processing system from among said plurality of parallel data processing systems at one of said plurality of private addresses with loose source routing enabled through said NAT device at said source routing address.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for accessing a data processing system behind a NAT enabled network wherein automatically routing said query through said NAT device to a DNS server, further comprises:

automatically routing said query through a pre-selected port of said NAT device for handling DNS queries.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for accessing a data processing system behind a NAT enabled network further comprising:

authenticating an identity of a user at said client system;

only allowing access to said NAT data processing system if said authenticated identity of said user matches one of a plurality of authenticated users enabled to access systems behind said NAT enabled network.

Claims 8-21 (Cancelled).